

Women of Spirit

Inspiring Foremothers: Leading Change

The medieval mystics, according to historians, constituted, ‘the greatest intrusion of women in church history.’ Long before the women’s liberation movements, inspired by social commitments, spiritual philosophies and theologies, our foremothers founded organizations, hospitals, schools, social services and movements that radically changed the lives of many. According to Mary T. Malone, “Circumstances are now right for another such *intrusion*.” This series aims to draw on the courage and commitment of our foremothers, to inspire the present, and forge the future. Each evening will comprise a full presentation, followed by discussion groups and a period of reflection/ meditation.

Eva Gore Booth

The sister of Constance Markievicz, Eva Gore Booth worked with prostitutes and flower sellers, and educated the early British suffragists. She also wrote a brilliant 323 page reflection on St. John’s Gospel. Monday, Feb. 28th

Presented by **Mary Condren**, Director of the Institute for Feminism and Religion. *Series Coordinator*

Hildegard of Bingen

The wisdom of twelfth century Benedictine Abbess, Hildegard von Bingen, has much to say to our troubled society and to our own personal struggles. Apothecary, ecologist, cosmologist, playwright, preacher, musician, teacher, prophet and visionary, this extraordinary woman has largely been ignored in theological, musical and artistic circles and this evening’s explorations will seek to retrieve her rightful place in history. Monday, March 7th

Presented by **Nóirín Ní Riain** who has for many years, been singing Hildegardian chant internationally, taking the lead role, Anima, in the first morality play ever written and frequently lecturing on her theology and musical corpus.

Margaret Anna Cusack

A re-evaluation of her life and work. This feisty woman was a community leader political activist author and founder of a religious institution has a lot to teach us about the relationship of women and leadership and authority, especially church authority. Her spirit may sustain us as we struggle with the same issues in the 21st century. Monday, March 14th

Presented by **Joy Powell**, theologian and healthcare chaplain who did her dissertation on Margaret Anna Cusack.

Medieval Mystics

The Medieval Women Mystics constituted, according to male historians, 'the greatest intrusion of women in church history'. Circumstances are ripe for another intrusion. This evening we will examine the nature of such intrusions. Monday, March 21st

Presented by **Mary T. Malone** who returned to Ireland after teaching feminist history and theology in Canada for over thirty years.

Madeleine Sophie Barat 1779-1865

Life out of the ashes: Madeleine Sophie Barat, 1779-1865. March 28th

Presented by historian, **Phil Kilroy**, author of *Madeleine Sophie Barat. A Life* (Cork UP, 2000). Vol 2 of the biography is due to be published this year.

Anna Wheeler, 1785-1847

“The path full of thorns’: exploring the ideas of a cooperative feminist.” Born in Tipperary where she educated herself with languages, philosophy and political theory. She married and had two children before leaving her husband and taking children to London. She quickly became actively involved in the Cooperative, Socialist Movement. Having met with William Thompson (Co. Cork) she became his muse and collaborator in the Cooperative Movement in England, France and Ireland. A central product of their collaboration was a treatise: *Appeal of One Half the Human Race* (1825) where Thompson acknowledges her inspiration and convictions about the social, legal, religious and economic influences that leave women in an oppressed state with her moral self undermined. Monday, April 4th

Presented by **Dolores Dooley**. Born in Chicago. Moved to Ireland in 1974. Took up post at UCC in Dept of Philosophy. Retired from UCC after 30 yrs lecturing in Women's Studies, Philosophy and Health Care Ethics (Nursing and Medicine). Moved to Dublin in 2007 and continues to lecture in MSc in Healthcare Ethics and Law at RCSI. Chair of National Bioethics Council until 2010. Most recent collaboration was production of 8 ethics modules for the Irish Hospice Foundation on 'End of Life Care'.

Edel Quinn and Her Times

Monday, April 11^h

Presented by **Margaret MacCurtain**, retired feminist historian and author of many articles and books on feminist history.

Catherine McAuley

Catherine McAuley emerged out of a distinct social economic background, where women's voices were barely heard because of massive social, cultural and political constraints. Catherine responded by using her considerable financial resources to build a women's community movement for the benefit of women and girls. Monday, April 18th

Presented by **Margaret Roche**, consultant facilitator/trainer: life coaching and personal development. Chairwoman of 103.2 Dublin City fm, she has a great interest in making documentaries the latest being "Beyond the Veil" which celebrates the work of women religious in our community.

Course Registration Form: Women of Spirit: Inspiring Foremothers

Name

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Signature:

Registration Fee

Regular Fee for entire series: I enclose €100:00

Concession Rate: I wish to apply for the concession rate on the following grounds

I enclose €50.00 euro

Individual sessions may be attended for a fee of 20 euro per night. However, advance registration is strongly advised to ensure space availability and a copy of any resources prepared by the presenter on the night.

I wish to attend the following sessions: *(Please enclose 20 euro for each individual session)*

1. **Eva Gore Booth, Feb. 28th**
2. **Hildegard of Bingen, March 7th**
3. **Margaret Anna Cusack, March 14th**
4. **Medieval Mystics, March 21st**
5. **Madeleine Sophie Barat, March 28th**
6. **Anna Wheeler, April 4th**
7. **Edel Quinn, April 11th**
8. **Catherine McAuley, April 18th**

Registration: Please send registration fee to this address: Institute for Feminism and Religion, 30A Parkhill Rise, Kilnamanagh, Dublin 24. Alternatively, you may pay through the *Paypal* facility on our website: www.instituteforfeminismandreligion.org. (Use the *Donate* facility)

Venue: Catherine McAuley Centre, 23 Lr. Herbert Street, Dublin 1. (Near Baggot Street Bridge).

Time/Dates: Mondays 7:30 – 9:30, Starting February 28th Eight weeks.